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SUBJECT: JAPANESE PRESS REPORTS OF ULTRA-LARGE COMPUTERS

REF: TOKYO 2305

1. LATE JANUARY JAPANESE PRESS REPORTS INDICATED THAT JAPANESE FIRMS FUJITSU AND HITACHI HAD SUCCEEDED IN PRODUCING COMPUTERS WITH CAPACITIES EXCEEDING THAT OF THE IBM 3000 SERIES. EMBOFF SPOKE WITH SPECIALIST IN COMPUTER TECHNOLOGY AT YOKOTA AFB TO OBTAIN ASSESSMENT AND GENERAL OPINION REGARDING THE CLAIMS. HIS VIEWS AND GENERAL OPINION ARE SUMMARIZED BELOW, PARA 4-7.

2. ARTICLE'S TECHNICAL DESCRIPTION OF THE FUJITSU M-200 IS AS FOLLOWS: IT HAS A PROCESSING SPEED 1.5 - 1.8 TIMES THAT OF THE M-190 AND CAN BE STRUCTURED AS A MULTI-PROCESSOR CONSISTING OF A MAXIMUM OF FOUR CENTRAL PROCESSING UNITS. USING FOUR CPU'S, IT DISPLAYS A PERFORMENCE ABOUT FIVE TIMES THAT OF THE M-190 SINGLE CPU SYSTEM. THE MULTIPLEX VIRTUAL STORAGE (MVS) SYSTEM, TOO, IS MORE EFFICIENT. THE SEPARATION OF THE CENTRAL PROCESSING UNIT, THE CHANNEL PROCESSING UNIT, THE MAIN INTERNAL MEMORY, AND THE MEMORY CONTROL UNIT WAS ACCOMPLISHED. RELIABILITY AND AVAILABILITY IN THE CASE OF THE MULTI-SYSTEM WERE IMPROVED BY DUPLICATING
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SUCH COMMON MODULES AS THE MEMORY CONTROL UNIT AND THE SERVICE PROCESSOR. THE ECL-LSI, WITH 100 GATES PER CHIP, WAS ADOPTED AS THE LOGIC ELEMENT, WITH CREATION OF A COMPLETE LIS FOR THE MAIN LOGIC CIRCUIT. FOR THE MAIN INTERNAL MEMORY, A 16 KBIT PER CHIP N-MOS/LSI WAS ADOPTED. FOR THE BUFFER MEMORY, A HIGH-DENSITY, SUPER-HIGH-SPEED BI-POLAR LSI WITH 1 KBIT PER CHIP WAS USED.

3. THE TECHNICAL DESCRIPTION OF THE HITACHI HITAC M-180L
IS AS FOLLOWS: THE ARCHITECTURE OF THE TRADITIONAL M
SERIES IS PRESERVED BUT INCOROPRATES THAT LATEST LSI. THE
INTERNAL MEMORY USES AN N-MOS LSI, WITH 16 KBIT PER CHIP.
FOR LOGIC ELEMENTS, THE ECL-LSI, WITH 400 GATES PER CHIP,
IS USED. THERE ARE A MAXIMUM OF FOUR CPU'S AND THE CAPACITY OF
THE MAIN INTERNAL MEMORY IS 2 MEGA-BYTES IN BASIC STRUCTURE.

4. OVERALL, THE SPECIALIST CONFIRMS THAT THE ARTICLES ON
THE TWO NEW COMPUTERS ARE ACCURATE IN REFLECTING THE
CAPACITIES OF THE NEW PRODUCTS. ALTHOUGH EQUAL TO
"TOP-OF-THE-LINE" IBM PRODUCTS, THEY DO NOT EXCEED THEM.
JAPANESE EXPERTISE IN LARGE-SCALE INTEGRATED CIRCUITRY
RESEARCH HAS BEEN DEMONSTRATED MAKING THE PROSPECTS FOR
JAPANESE ACCOMPLISHMENTS IN THIS FIELD QUITE GOOD.

5. ONE DISTINCT ADVANTAGE OF THE M-200 IS ITS PRICE,
RUNNING ABOUT 30 PCT LESS THAN IBM EQUIVALENTS. HOWEVER,
THE SPECIALIST IS SURE THAT IBM'S REPUTATION FOR SYSTEM
SUPPORT AFTER PURCHASE WILL COMPENSATE FOR THE PRICE
DISCREPANCY WITH POTENTIAL BUYERS.

6. BOTH THE FUJITSU M-200 AND THE HITACHI HITAC M-180L
COMPUTERS ARE SIMILAR IN PERFORMANCE. BOTH PRODUCTS
RESULTED FROM GROUP RESEARCH SUBSIDIZED BY THE JAPANESE
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GOVERNMENT. ACTUAL COMPETITIVE MARGINS WITH IBM ARE
DIFFICULT TO ASCERTAIN DUE TO TRADITIONAL IBM RETICENCE
TO DISCLOSE PRODUCT INFORMATION OF ANY SORT.

7. BOTH COMPANIES APPEAR TO HAVE EXPLOITED THE LANGUAGE OF
SALESMANSHIP IN PRESENTING THEIR PRODUCTS TO THE PRESS
AS DISTINCTLY SUPERIOR TO THE CURRENT GENERATION OF
IBM MACHINES.
MANSFIELD

NNN

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